

**GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2013**

SENATOR DOYLE, REPRESENTATIVE BARAM AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MY NAME IS CAMERON CHAMPLIN. I REPRESENT PLUMBERS and PIPE FITTERS LOCAL UNION 777 AND AM HERE TO TESTIFY ON S.B. 324.

WE REALIZE THE INTENT OF THIS BILL IS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR BUSINESSES TO OPERATE IN CONNECTICUT BUT, AS THE BILL STATES , WE CANNOT ELIMINATE LICENSES THAT ARE PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR OUR CITIZENS.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY OVER 40,000 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES ISSUED IN CONNECTICUT. HOWEVER THER ARE ONLY TWO FIELD INSPECTORS TO COVER THE ENTIRE STATE. WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT THE STUDY INCLUDE THE REVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF FIELD INSPECTORS FOR THE STATE. WE CERTAINLY NEED MORE THAN TWO FOR THIS IMPORTANT JOB. IT IS UNFAIR TO THE LEGITIMATE CONTRACTORS THAT HIRE LICENSED PEOPLE TO COMPETE WITH THE CHEATING CONTRACTORS THAT GET AWAY WITH THESE VIOLATIONS BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE PROPER ENFORCEMENT. IT IS ALSO UNFAIR FOR THE LICENSED JOURNEY PERSONS THAT ARE UNEMPLOYED WHILE THESE CHEATERS ARE STEALING THEIR JOBS. IF THE CHEATING CONTRACTORS ARE USING UNLICENSED PEOPLE TO PERFORM THESE TASKS THEY MOST LIKELY DO NOT CARRY WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND NOT PAYING THE PROPER TAXES TO THE STATE. ALL OF THESE ARE AN ADDED EXPENSE TO THE STATE AND OUR TAX PAYERS.

I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE HEATING PIPING AND COOLING AND SHEET METAL BOARD SINCE 1988. THE CURRENT FINES FOR VIOLATIONS ARE UP TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE FIFTEEN HUNDRED FOR THE SECOND OFFENSE AND THREE THOUSAND FOR EACH OFFENSE AFTER THAT. WITH THESE TYPE OF FINES AN INSPECTOR COULD BRING IN MORE MONEY THAN IT COSTS THE STATE TO EMPLOY THEM.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE. IF ANY MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED PLEASE CONTACT ME BY EMAIL camc@att.net OR CELL (860) 287-0020.